



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

Community Planning and Physical Services Committee
Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Room 312
Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 8:00 AM

Minutes

In attendance: Ben Wenograd, Shari Cantor, Chris Barnes, Dallas Dodge, Beth Kerrigan, John Phillips, Mark McGovern, Todd Dumais and member of the public.

1. Call to Order - 8:02
2. Communications
 - a. 12/18/2017 Minutes (Attachment, pg. 2) - Approved

3. Staff Reports

- a. Public Works

DPW has responded to 10 significant snow/ice events that have utilized overtime, salt and contractor forces. 52% of the snow budget has been expended. The 10 day weather forecast is favorable but a challenging pot hole season is expected.

- b. Community Development

Staff met last week with the Center Working group to continue discussions regarding nuisance issues and on-street parking. Asst. Chief McCue attended and discussed how the center is patrolled and how they work in partnership with restaurants. Evaluation of on-street and off-street parking during late evening operations continues. Residents continue to express their interest in resident permit parking as a solution.

Staff updated the committee regarding the need to update the Plan of Conservation and Development, a 10 year plan that expires in January of 2019. The Town Plan and Zoning Commission is the author of the plan with Council involvement in the process. Since the plan has served the Town well, a refresh will be pursued as opposed to a re-write. Recent planning efforts will be integrated into it and significant community engagement will occur. A RFP to secure consulting assistance will be the next step.

4. Business Items

- a. Complete Streets Annual Report

The report was presented by the Town Engineer. It documents progress made on continuing and new projects. Bike lanes, shared roadways, crosswalks, sidewalk repairs, etc. were reviewed.

b. Waste Management Research

Staff reviewed a memo covering waste management issues and trends. While recycling volume is up, there has not been a reduction in waste volume. Food and textiles have a long way to go.

CT DEEP remains interested in leading a workshop with the entire Council. Staff will work with DEEP staff to sketch out a program.

c. N. Main Street Road Diet

Staff reported that the Town Manager has expressed interest in continuing the analysis of North Main St. Staff met with the Capital Region Council of Governments to discuss how we could collaborate and retain the same consultant that produced the Road Diet study. A proposal on how to proceed will be brought to next month's meeting.

The major issue that need to be explored further is traffic diversions to other streets and neighborhoods. Questions were asked about Farmington Ave. and if diversion was studied as part of that project. Although it doesn't appear that it was, the project was also different in that it did not include a reduction of travel lanes.

Members of the public offered comment and urged the Council to take action without spending additional time and money. Questions were asked and answered related to the original scope of the project.

d. Sign Regulations

Staff informed the Committee that Leisure Services has received requests from local leagues about the ability to display sponsorship signage in parks which would require revisions to the zoning ordinances. Drafts would go to both CPPS and the Parks Advisory Commission.

Staff and the Committee also discussed the restriction of commercial lawn signs in residential districts. The zoning code identifies permissible signage on front lawns, including for sale signs, construction/renovation companies, non-profit events, etc. However, a resident cannot display a commercial business sign and a commercial business is not allowed to have remote signage. Staff explained the history of enforcement by both DPW and Zoning Enforcement as means of preventing sign proliferation.

5. Adjournment – 9:13